

Dear sirs:

I am very concerned over the recent actions and plans by Sinclair Broadcast Group's to present as news a biased documentary. These sorts of actions illustrate the ver real dangers to localism being caused by unchecked and unregulated media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter to us in our local communities. With the pressures for bottom line performance, objectivity is lost and the potential for abuse, as is evident here, can run rampant. We would not then be far from an Orwellian society. The lack of objectivity has already been seen in major newspapers with fabricated stories.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.